



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP Lancaster Farms

for reporting Year
2016-17

Published

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, of any concern it has.
- Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

This report covers the period 1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017.

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Lancaster Farms IMB is committed to an inclusive approach to equality and diversity which encompasses and promotes greater interaction between people of different backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, marital status, disability, age, etc. We recognise that a fully inclusive approach to equality must also respond to differences which cut across social and cultural categories such as mental health, literacy and drug addiction.

The Board values this approach to equality and diversity in its recruitment and Board development practices, and seeks to increase the repertoire of skills and awareness amongst its members of the diverse needs and perspectives of the population of Lancaster Farms. Duties are undertaken in a manner which is accessible to everyone in the establishment, regardless of their background. The Board monitors in order to establish whether the experiences and interaction between staff, prisoners and visitors is fair and without prejudice. Where this is not the case, the Board will alert appropriate authorities and individuals, including the Governor, senior management, area manager and the Prisons Minister.

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The substantive body of this report has been written by our different focus groups who each have oversight (though not exclusively) for a particular area.

Section 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

HMP Lancaster Farms is a Category C Resettlement prison with accommodation for 555 adult male prisoners. It is a modern prison with 4 main residential blocks each divided into 2 wings. Coniston Wing 2 houses the substance misuse recovery unit and other prisoners are held in Derwent, Windermere and Buttermere units. There is also a smaller unit, Grizedale, which currently houses 18 enhanced prisoners. The Care and Separation Unit, Ullswater, holds 12 prisoners. The majority of wing accommodation is in single cells but there are a small number of double cells with bunk beds, now expanded in number to take account of the increased operational capacity. There is currently only 1 cell specially adapted for prisoners with disability and there is only 1 gated cell.

The residential units are situated around a central garden area and all communal facilities, healthcare, education, library, workshops, chapel, gymnasium and kitchen are easily accessible from this area.

Healthcare is provided by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and the substance misuse service is provided by CGL/Inspire. Rehabilitation services are provided by Sodexo for Lancashire and Cumbria prisoners, both of these companies have contracted Shelter to deliver the service. Food is prepared in the contracted out kitchen and transported to the wings in heated trolleys. The prison provides some community engagement through the well-attended School Careers session which involves five local sixth-forms.

The prison has experienced, like most other such establishments, an increase in the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and introduced a policy for dealing with prisoners found using these substances in 2015.

Changes made

The general and fire alarm systems noted as out of action in the last Annual Report were restored by July 2016.

Operational capacity was increased to 555 by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC) during the reporting period. This has been achieved by doubling up in more cells.

The new core day was introduced which was generally well-received although initially not by those on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme.

The Novus Offender Learning and Skills Service contract (OLASS4) was extended to July 2017 when new contracts will be awarded.

Benchmarking, now coming to an end during the reporting period, has resulted in a reduction in the number of officers and some regime closures. Efforts have been made to minimise disruption, but any additional calls for staff, e.g. to provide escorts, especially at weekends, can result in unit closures.

Coniston Wing 1 ceased to be an induction unit during the relevant period.

Changes planned

Funding to make changes to perimeter fences in Coniston and Derwent has been granted with work to start in spring 2017. Fencing is to be erected 2 metres from the cell windows on the exercise yards on Coniston 1 and 2. Alterations are also to be made to these exercise yards including refurbishment.

The arrangements for a 'Smoke Free Prison' are proceeding with a target date of autumn 2017. In the meantime B2 and W2 are to become majority voluntary smoke free areas. Smoking cessation courses have been increased.

Plans are in place to extend body worn cameras for prison officers.

The Healthcare contract was awarded to 'Spectrum' and will become operative from April, 2017, with the mental health services sub-contracted to Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation trust and pharmacy services being managed in-house. New contracts are to be awarded for dental services and Substance Misuse Services.

An increase in prison officer numbers is planned as part of the more general policy to recruit more prison officers in late 2016.

We, as a Board, think that Lancaster Farms is a well-managed, safe prison in which prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, whilst being provided with increasingly numerous and good quality opportunities for purposeful activity.

Section 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although as a Board we think Lancaster Farms is a well-managed, safe prison in which prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, whilst being provided with increasingly numerous and good quality opportunities for purposeful activity, we make several recommendations which are set out below. These are taken from the main body of the report. With each one we have indicated whether we consider it a matter for the Ministry (MOJ), HM Prison and Probation Service/National Offender Management Service (HMPPS/NOMS), DDC, Partner Agencies or the prison.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Make provision for better attendance and less frequent cancellation/rearrangement of Equality Action Team meetings, and encourage unrepresented departments to send a report. (Prison) 4.1.14

Reduce the length of the classroom sessions and facilitate the coffee shop initiative. (NOVUS/Prison) 4.2.11

Reduce cancelled OLASS classes due to teaching staff unavailability. (NOVUS). 4.2.13

Continue to reduce the purposeful activity gap (HMPPS/NOMS/Prison).4.3.12

Provide an all-prison response to improve purposeful activity call rates. (Prison). 4.3.13

Where possible avoid prison operational closures. (Prison). 4.3.14

Provide a long term solution for the storage and dispensing of medication. (Prison/Provider) 4.4.22

Make commissioners aware of the functional effects on Healthcare of provider transition and take steps to minimise disruption during the tendering process and contract transfer.(Provider) 4.2.24

Ensure that a medical prescriber is available on Fridays for newly transferred prisoners. (Provider) 4.26

Review Offender Management Unit (OMU) operation to ensure that its business is carried out in a timely fashion, and communication between Offender Supervisors and prisoners improves.(HMPPS/NOMS/Prison) 4.5.13

Continue close monitoring of prisoners for signs of extremism and potential intolerance towards the Muslim population. (Prison) 4.6.17

Improve the external exercise area of the Care and Separation Unit to provide a more positive experience and the opportunity for exercise.(Prison) 4.7.9

Ensure that meals are not eaten in cells (especially double cells) with unscreened toilets. (HMPPS/NOMS/Prison). 4.8.11

Section 4

REPORTS

4.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Achievements

- 4.1.1 Despite regular short-staffing, the Safer Custody team carries out this important work with dedication and attention to detail.
- 4.1.2. Quarterly support/discussion forums take place for British Minority Ethnic prisoners, Gypsy/Roma/Travellers, GBT (Gay/Bisexuals/Transgender),

prisoners with a disability, and Under-25s. A quarterly Over-55s meeting has a representative from each residential unit (approximately 15 over-55s in the prison).

- 4.1.3 The staff Disabilities Representative is also the staff Equalities Representative.
- 4.1.4 Travellers' Awareness Week (July) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month (February) displays appear around the prison.
- 4.1.5 The Chaplaincy team's calendar of religious festivals ensures they are appropriately celebrated.
- 4.1.6 The Chaplaincy team's vital pastoral role includes interviewing all new arrivals and visiting Care and Separation daily.
- 4.1.7 The now full-time Imam's post reflects increased Muslim prisoner numbers (approximately 50 -60). He provides pastoral care and religious services for all Muslim prisoners, and is alert for signs of extremism. Bi-monthly meetings with the Northwest Region Head of Security consider any radicalisation concerns which may arise. Pathfinder Meetings take place with Muslim prisoners.
- 4.1.8 On induction, all prisoners complete a disability assessment (listing 10 disability categories). A custodial manager prepares a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) as necessary.
- 4.1.9 Foreign Nationals (approximately 10) are mostly from the Republic of Ireland. Staff from HMP Risley (Northwest regional Foreign National Prisoner hub) visit on request if a problem arises.
- 4.1.10 47 Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFs) (5 – 7 per month) are dealt with in a timely manner.
- 4.1.11 The prison has links with AROOJ, a community group which liaises with Muslim prisoners before and after release).

Issues

- 4.1.12 The prison has only one designated low-mobility cell. Bids are under consideration to adapt a cell on each of the 3 remaining residential wings.
- 4.1.13 Equality Action Team meetings are sometimes poorly attended and frequently cancelled. Where meetings are held unrepresented departments fail to send reports.

Recommendations

- 4.1.14 Make provision for better attendance and less frequent cancellation/rearrangement of Equality Action Team meetings, and encourage unrepresented departments to send a report. This issue has been raised several times by the IMB. (Prison)

4.2 EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS (EL&S)

Overview

- 4.2.1 This part of the report assesses Offenders' Learning and Skills Service Contract (OLASS4) funded education and vocational training provided by NOVUS.

Achievements

- 4.2.2 Novus continues to make a full contribution to the robust assurance processes operated by the Quality Improvement Group (QIG).
- 4.2.3 NOVUS has provided 53% of activity capacity, some of which has been based on new courses.
- 4.2.4 OLASS4 activities are based on a commendable attendance rate of 88%.
- 4.2.5 Support for higher education is to be expanded in several areas including with the University of Lancaster and also the Open University (there are currently 11 prisoners undertaking Open University modules).

Issues

- 4.2.6 Insufficient links with employers. Although this is still the case 'the new, more positive position' noted in the last report does seem to be increasingly bearing fruit. NOVUS has appointed a team leader with responsibility for providing opportunities for prisoners to gain , before release, Employment Passports (for Painting and Decorating and Storekeeping) and Enterprise Passports (for the self-employed).
- 4.2.7 Classroom sessions are too long without a break and this problem has been exacerbated by the impact of the adult core day. This has been a matter of adverse comment from the IMB for some years and the issue clearly contributes to low attendance, disruptive classroom behaviour and reluctance to undertake education classes amongst some prisoners. However, an agreement has now been reached to provide refreshment facilities in the classrooms in the morning and afternoon sessions and a business case made for dishwashing facilities. .
- 4.2.8 More attention still needs to be given to the educational needs of a diverse prison population including older and/or disabled prisoners and those who wish to pursue non-vocational interests. The Good Greener on the Outside for Prisons (GOOP) project shows potential for helping older/disabled prisoners. It can also be adapted for vulnerable in-cell prisoners through the use of planter boxes which can be placed in the open air by red-banded prisoners.

- 4.2.9 Class cancellations have made some contribution to the inactivity referred to at 4.3.11 below.

Recommendations

- 4.2.10 Continue to develop more effective links with employers. (NOVUS).
- 4.2.11 Reduce the length of the classroom sessions and facilitate the coffee shop initiative. (NOVUS and Prison).
- 4.2.12 Continue to ensure that the curriculum and the teaching process are adapted for the needs of a diverse range of prisoners. (NOVUS).
- 4.2.13 Reduce cancelled classes due to teaching staff unavailability. (NOVUS).

4.3 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Overview

- 4.3.1 This section of the report assesses non-OLASS prisoner activity, including work provided in the prison including service work like orderlies and the production workshop, library provision, the gym and Sports Academy, and time spent out of cells. It also deals with the total amount of prisoner activity, including both OLASS and non-OLASS activities.

Achievements

- 4.3.2 Non-OLASS providers contribute the impetus to the robust assurance processes operated by the Quality Improvement Group (QIG). QIG meetings generally follow the programme for the year and continue to be lively and reasonably well-attended.
- 4.3.3 Staff have made strenuous efforts to adapt the prison to its new role as a resettlement prison for adults and must be commended for obtaining significant MOJ funding to expand activity places at Lancaster Farms. Construction is due to start on the new workshop development in April 2017.
- 4.3.4 In general terms non-OLASS provision is doing well – it is now adequately funded, well-planned and increasingly achieving results.
- 4.3.5 Non-OLASS provision increasingly reveals a new focus on qualifications and employment outside the prison when the prisoner is released, as well as the provision of work within the prison.
- 4.3.6 Various activity places have been created including: a new horticulture group for prisoners with mental health difficulties as part of the GOOP initiative; increased numbers of 'red band' prisoners, the deployment of a larger number of prisoners on the 'Recycling Lives' contract, the opening of the Intelling Call Centre with places for 12 prisoners, the opening of a small packaging operation for prisoners finding it difficult to access normal regime facilities. Other possible developments include the creation of the Amey

Academy and the manufacture of 'pod' dwellings for GeoSafe (although this is dependent on lottery funding). A bakery has been established in the prison kitchens.

- 4.3.7 The greater emphasis on employer recognised qualifications is found in the Waste Management Unit with the provision of a Waste Management and Industry Training and Advisory Board qualification, a Farms and Gardens party which is to offer NVQ1 in horticulture and about 40 prisoners who have obtained the Construction Skills Certification Scheme card which helps them to obtain labouring jobs on building sites.
- 4.3.8 Non-OLASS activities are also based on a commendable attendance rate of 88%.

Issues

- 4.3.9 Underdeveloped employer links with non-OLASS work provision. Insufficient employer links with the prison continue to be an issue. Much work is proceeding here though undertaken by a new National Careers Service employment co-ordinator.
- 4.3.10 Insufficient attention given to diversity of work needs. It remains unclear whether the planning for non-OLASS activity places for the new adult prison population has produced appropriate provision for the older and/or disabled prisoners the prison now has. Perhaps the support group for such prisoners, noted above, could be involved in developing further provision.
- 4.3.11 Continuing levels of prisoner inactivity. IMB observation and statistical monitoring confirms that a significant proportion of the prison population are inactive during normal working time. This is still partly due to the demand for places exceeding provision as well as lack of full utilisation of existing facilities. But is also attributable to the frequency of operational closures and the cancellation of learning and skills classes, especially in the first part of the period covered by this report.

Recommendations

- 4.3.12 Continue to reduce the activity gap (NOMS/MoJ/Prison).
- 4.3.13 Provide an all-prison response to improve call rates. (Prison).
- 4.3.14 Where possible avoid operational closures. (Prison).
- 4.3.15 Further develop effective employer links with the prison. (Prison)
- 4.3.16 Further adapt non-OLASS activity places for older and disabled prisoners. (Prison).

4.4 HEALTHCARE - INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES

Overview.

- 4.4.1 With the completion of the re-role to an adult resettlement prison the demand for health services has stabilised. Local oversight of these services takes place at the quarterly Prison Healthcare Operational Group chaired by the Prison Governor.

Physical Health

Achievements

- 4.4.2 All prisoners have a general health screening on reception and this incorporates a brief social care needs assessment.
- 4.4.3 Targets have been met for preventative health services such as health checks and flu vaccination.
- 4.4.4 The national policy imposing prescribing limitations on Pregabalin and Gabapentin has been well managed with prisoners having a comprehensive review of their medication needs.
- 4.4.5 Increasing numbers of prisoners are encouraged to manage their own prescribed medication.
- 4.4.6 Prisoners no longer have to wait in large queues outside to receive medications.

Issues

- 4.4.7 Storage facilities for medicines do not meet current standards.
- 4.4.8 Prisoners can arrive late in the week at the prison without their medication and in the absence of medical prescribing staff on a Friday there are difficulties obtaining replacement medication.
- 4.4.9 There is lack of clarity regarding future arrangements for key personnel in healthcare.
- 4.4.10 To date prisoners with social care needs have been managed by co-operation between healthcare and prison staff with prisoners providing support on occasion, but there is a lack of confidence in the ability to access extra support, particularly for personal care.

Mental Health

Achievements

- 4.4.11 All new transfers are assessed by a Mental Health Practitioner.
- 4.4.12 Prisoners with mental health problems receive a high standard of care both from mental health professionals and prison staff.

- 4.4.13 Greater availability of purposeful activity has a beneficial effect on the mental health of prisoners.

Issues

- 4.4.14 There is a partially unmet need for counselling and targeted brief interventions for conditions such as anxiety.
- 4.4.15 There are delays in obtaining appropriate beds for severely mentally ill individuals.
- 4.4.16 Currently there are good links with the local Medium Secure Mental Health Unit who provide regular sessions for prisoners with a psychiatrist, but there is no clarity regarding future arrangements, which could further disadvantage prisoners with severe mental illness.

Substance Misuse Service

Achievements

- 4.4.17 A governor has been allocated responsibility for supporting the development of the Recovery Unit and attempts are being made to reinforce the recovery model by different ways of working e.g. providing an early morning informal support session.
- 4.4.18 There is regular input from Alcoholics Anonymous and workers from Narcotics Anonymous are awaiting security clearance.
- 4.4.19 Peer support is promoted with 11 peer supporters and two red bands working with the service.

Issues.

- 4.4.20 Programme development has been disrupted due to the change of provider.
- 4.4.21 The Recovery Unit has approximately 60% of its residents on maintenance medication and 40% in recovery which impacts on the ability to maintain a recovery ethos.

Recommendations

- 4.4.22 Provide a long term solution for the storage and dispensing of medication.(Prison/provider)
- 4.4.23 Ensure there are robust pathways to obtain social care for prisoners as the need arises.(Prison/provider)

- 4.4.24 Make commissioners aware of the functional effects of provider transition and take steps to minimise disruption during the tendering process and contract transfer.(Provider)
- 4.4.25 Consider establishing a monitoring system to ensure prisoners who require healthcare services are not disadvantaged by the change of provider.(Prison)
- 4.26 Ensure that a medical prescriber is available on Fridays for newly transferred prisoners. (Provider)

4.5 RESETTLEMENT AND REDUCING REOFFENDING

Overview

- 4.5.1 Reducing Reoffending is managed through seven pathways which have their designated leads who meet bi-monthly at a Reducing Re-offending Forum. This meeting is attended by pathway leads, the head of the Offender Management Unit, prisoner representatives and a member of the IMB as observer. The meeting is chaired by the Governor responsible for Reducing Reoffending. Prior to the meeting updates are supplied on behalf of each pathway and the forum is used to update the Reducing Reoffending Action Plan.

Achievements

- 4.5.2 Pre-release boards are held for all prisoners to ensure their resettlement needs have been addressed. These are well attended and use is made of peer representatives to assist the process.
- 4.5.3 Despite a reduction from six to three facilitators in the Programmes Team, and for much of the year functioning with only two facilitators, the same targets as for the previous year have been achieved.
- 4.5.4 In the reporting period Lancashire Constabulary ran three victim awareness courses involving 23 prisoners.
- 4.5.5 The Reducing Reoffending pathways are kept under critical review and best practice constantly sought e.g. wing-based prisoner Information arrangements are to be replaced by a pathway based system.

Issues

- 4.5.6 Staffing levels in the OMU have led to continued delays and difficulties with Home Detention Curfew (HDC) and re-categorisation reviews. Although efforts have been made to reduce delays IMB members continue to receive regular applications from prisoners relating to these matters.

- 4.5.7 Engagement with families is not robust. The family pathway does not have designated staffing and is run by the Chaplaincy. The visitor centre is currently staffed by Partners of Prisons (POPS) but this contract is under tender with the new contract to commence from October 2017.
- 4.5.8 Provision for children in the Visits Hall is limited and the crèche facility is run by volunteers whose ability to provide a positive environment is limited. In addition there have been lengthy delays in provision of toys for visits.
- 4.5.9 Prisoners continue to be transferred into the prison with less than 12 weeks to their release date.
- 4.5.10 While working relationships are good with the designated local Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and local community resources, Shelter staff experience difficulties in establishing robust release plans for prisoners from other areas.
- 4.5.11 Staffing turnover in the gym, and the time needed to train staff as assessors, has reduced their ability to provide prisoners with sufficient input to achieve qualifications necessary for employment on release.

Recommendations

- 4.5.12 A more robust approach should be taken to engaging families with the rehabilitation process so it becomes an intrinsic part of prison business. (Prison)
- 4.5.13 Review OMU operation to ensure its business is carried out in a timely fashion, and communication between Offender Supervisors and prisoners is improved.(HMPPS/NOMS/Prison)
- 4.5.14 Staffing levels and skills within the gym need to improve in order to ensure prisoners have the opportunity to gain certified qualifications. (Prison)

4.6 SAFER CUSTODY

Overview

- 4.6.1 Hard-working staff undertake important tasks, despite the inevitable impact of frequent changes of personnel. Of 100 hours allotted weekly, short-staffing (frequently redeployed uniform staff) significantly reduces the hours dedicated to Violence Reduction. Security is considered to be good and a high proportion of prisoners in contact with the IMB said they felt safe in the prison.

Achievements

Violence Reduction

- 4.6.2 In response to an increased level of violence, in early 2016, a weekly Tasking Meeting dealing with Violence Reduction Monitoring (VRM) replaced Tackling Anti-Bullying (TAB). At weekly Safeguarding meetings, VRM also reviews transfer of problematic prisoners between wings. Prisoners engaging in acts of violence, fights and/or causing damage are informed by letter that they will be monitored. Restricted regime and short-staffing may delay Violence Reduction interviews.
- 4.6.3 Although some prisoners continue to use NPS (New Psychoactive Substances), fewer NPS-related incidents may indicate in-cell use now, rather than in public. An NPS strategy includes education about the risks, and a protocol for those suspected of taking such substances.

Suicide & Self Harm

- 4.6.4 No deaths in custody have occurred during the reporting period.
- 4.6.5 Every wing has a Listener. A Listener Crisis Suite has been created. A prisoner representative attends Safer Custody meetings.
- 4.6.6 Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork documents (ACCTs) are well-managed. There are 20 – 25 ACCTs opened each month and about 10 open at any one time. Prisoners on an open ACCT are housed across the residential wings to reduce pressure on staff making and recording the requisite interactions and observations.
- 4.6.7 Debt problems have led to an increase of 'self-isolators' or own protection (OP) prisoners.

Security

- 4.6.8 No escapes from HMP Lancaster Farms have occurred during the reporting period.
- 4.6.9 Well-attended monthly Security meetings closely monitor Security Information Reports (SIRs).
- 4.6.10 Contraband parcels (containing drugs and mobile phones) continue to enter the prison through Visits and over the perimeter fence (including 2 recent 'drone' deliveries). The issue is addressed internally with CCTV and perimeter zone searches, and externally with regular police patrols.

- 4.6.11 An intelligence-led cell search regime (rather than routine searching) continues to result in significant finds.
- 4.6.12 A new Samaritans phone has been installed.

Issues

- 4.6.13 Prisoners may not have access to a Listener at night, when staffing is at a minimum.
- 4.6.14 Listeners still receive no first-aid training.
- 4.6.15 The need for continued monitoring for signs of prisoner extremism and intolerance.

Recommendations

- 4.6.16 First-aid training for Listeners. (Prison)
- 4.6.17 Continued close monitoring for signs of extremism and potential intolerance towards the Muslim population. (Prison)

4.7 CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

Overview

- 4.7.1 There is accommodation for twelve prisoners on the Care and Separation Unit. Five cells are “safer cells” and two have CCTV installed. The unit runs at a high level of occupancy and is regularly full. Daily adjudications are held on the unit and the staff also support the external adjudicator when in attendance.

Achievements

- 4.7.2 Staff on the unit form good relationships with some of the most vulnerable and volatile prisoners in the establishment.
- 4.7.3 Despite the unit being full most of the time and busy with adjudications and reviews staff manage to ensure prisoners receive daily showers, phone calls and time in the fresh air and undertake their work efficiently and with good humour.
- 4.7.4 De-escalation techniques continue to be used minimising the need for the special cells.

Issues

- 4.7.5 A significant number of prisoners held on the unit are there for their own protection.
- 4.7.6 The OP prisoners have only limited opportunities for purposeful activity while on the unit although unit officers facilitate access to reading matter and, where appropriate, radios or other in cell occupation.
- 4.7.7 Prisoners on ACCTs are regularly held on the wing. The reasons for placement on a Care and Segregation Unit are recorded in the ACCT documentation and regularly reviewed.
- 4.7.8 The exercise yard is divided into five “cages” one of which is unusable due to bird excrement. The environment is bleak and dark with no opportunity for exercise.

Recommendations

- 4.7.9 The external exercise area requires improvement to provide a more positive experience and the opportunity for exercise.
- 4.7.10 Alternative options for the care of vulnerable prisoners requiring protection should be explored to reduce the numbers being held on the Care and Segregation Unit.

4.8 Residential Services

Overview

- 4.8.1 Lancaster Farms benefits from having a large open central area with grass and flowerbeds, while the wings all have an above average prison size communal space. The buildings are relatively recent the prison having been opened in 1993 and is in reasonable state of repair.

Achievements

- 4.8.2 Following the re-role from a Young Offenders Institution to a resettlement prison the core day has been reviewed and is now in line with normal arrangements for adults. Prisoners are locked up over the lunchtime period and have an extended period for association and domestic activities in the evening. This arrangement has promoted a more stable environment.
- 4.8.3 The prison kitchen has opened a bakery area which has provided occupation for prisoners and produced products for internal consumption. The possibility of selling additional products to staff is being investigated.
- 4.8.4 The standard of food provided for prisoners is of a high standard.

- 4.8.5 The prison is moving towards a smoke free environment with the introduction of some “no smoking” cells, smoking cessation sessions and E-cigarettes available through the Canteen.

Issues.

- 4.8.6 Pressures within the prison estate have led to more single cells being used for double occupancy.
- 4.8.7 Midday meals are eaten “in cell” with unscreened toilet facilities.
- 4.8.8 The wing exercise yards face the prison perimeter which facilitates the delivery of illegal items to prisoners.
- 4.8.9 The effects of the closure of the induction unit in Coniston Wing 1 need to continue to be monitored.

Recommendations

- 4.8.10 All exercise yards should be considered for an upgrade for both security and decency reasons.
- 4.8.11 Meals should not be eaten in cells with unscreened toilets.

Section 5

STATISTICS

5.1 The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

Recommended complement of Board Members	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6 (including one reduced activity and one probationary)
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	6
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12+1*
Total number of visits to the establishment	312
Total number of segregation reviews held	162**
Total number of segregation reviews attended	43
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	March 2017

* Away Day March 2016 to carry out final edit of annual report, the Annual Team Performance Review and to plan for 2016/17

** Estimate based on figures for 2015-16

5.2 IMB Application Monitoring 2013-14 to 2016-17

CODE	SUBJECT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
A	Accommodation	12	11	13	7
B	Adjudications	10	6	6	12
C	Equality & Diversity (including Religion)	3	1	3	0
D	Education/Employment/Training (including IEP)	31	27	14	2
E1	Family/Visits (including Mail and Phone)	29	19	4	6
E2	Finance/Pay	2	9	3	1
F	Food/Kitchen-related	6	3	2	4
G	Health-related	12	27	27	29
H1	Property (previous prison)	22	70	39	48
H2	Property (present prison)	24	11	19	10
H3	Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue Shopping, Argos	10	8	1	6
I	Sentence-related (inc HDC, ROTL, Parole, Release Dates, Re-cat, etc)	44	33	48	62
J	Staff/Prisoner/Detainee concerns (including Bullying)	20	9	9	14
K	Transfers	26	20	39	11
L	Miscellaneous	17	17	23	14
Total number of IMB Applications:		268	271	250	226
Of which confidential access		1	2	2	8